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News Release

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Apple Valley man pleads guilty to possessing child pornography

A 30-year-old Apple Valley man pleaded guilty today in federal court to one count of possession of child pornography. Brian Wayne Lowe entered his plea April 15 before United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank in Minneapolis.

According to Lowe's plea agreement, he did knowingly possess, in electronic format, one or more digital video files of minors under the age of 12 engaging in sexually explicit conduct on April 13, 2007. These images included at least 116 images and 26 video clips, which were stored on both Lowe's computer hard drive and on compact discs.

Lowe also agreed that the visual depictions were produced using materials that had been transported, by computer, in interstate commerce.

Lowe faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Judge Frank will determine Lowe's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Apple Valley Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Lackner.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

